

BUILD SKILLS

from The Canterbury Tales: The Prologue

LITERARY ANALYSIS

As you read the Prologue, look for these forms of **characterization**—techniques of revealing character:

- **Direct characterization** presents direct statements about character.
- **Indirect characterization** uses actions, thoughts, and dialogue to reveal a character's personality.

Each character in *The Canterbury Tales* represents a different segment of society in Chaucer's time. By noting the virtues and faults of each, Chaucer provides **social commentary**, writing that offers insight into society, its values, and its customs.

READING STRATEGY

Chaucer's Prologue begins with an eighteen-line sentence. To **analyze difficult sentences** like this one, ask the questions *when*, *who*, *where*, *what*, and *how* to identify the essential information the sentence conveys. Complete the chart below to finish analyzing Chaucer's first sentence.

When?	in April
Who?	people; palmers
Where?	
What?	
Why?	
How?	